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15p

CLAIMANTS UNION

INTERNAL BULLETIN

5, Mackenzie Rd, LONDON. SEPT '78

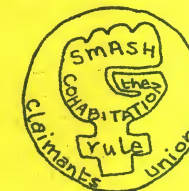
SCRAP the
UNEMPLOYMENT REVIEW OFFICER;

THIS IS THE INTERNAL BULLETIN OF THE NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CLAIMANTS UNIONS (NFCU). THE FIRST OF THESE BULLETINS WAS PRODUCED BY SWANSEA CU IN SEPTEMBER, 77 - THE LAST WAS PUBLISHED BY THEM IN MARCH OF THIS YEAR. AT THE APRIL NATIONAL FEDERATION CONFERENCE HELD IN EAST LONDON IT WAS DECIDED TO PRODUCE AN INTERNAL BULLETIN EIGHT TIMES A YEAR - ONE JUST BEFORE AND ONE JUST AFTER EVERY THREE-MONTHLY NATIONAL CONFERENCE. UNFORTUNATELY, THE MAY EDITION OF THE BULLETIN WAS NOT PRODUCED SO THIS SEPTEMBER ISSUE IS LONGER THAN USUAL.

THE PURPOSE OF THE BULLETIN IS TO PUT TOGETHER NEWS OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE CU MOVEMENT, TO PASS ON USEFUL, UP TO DATE INFO AND ANY ANNOUNCEMENTS EG. DATES OF CONFERENCES, WORKING PARTIES, REGIONAL CONFERENCES ETC., OBVIOUSLY, THE MORE PARTICIPATION THERE IS, THE BETTER IT WILL BE, SO PLEASE SEND US LOTS OF IDEAS, NEWS AND INFO.

CLAIMANTS UNION
01 607 8117

**SMASH the
INDUSTRIAL
MISCONDUCT
RULE ***



actual size price 15p



**fight back
with the
Claimants
Union**

011 607 8117

LONG TERM RATES

like other claimants.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CLAIMANTS UNION (Founded in Birmingham, in the autumn '68)

To celebrate this occasion the 35th Conference of the National Federation of Claimants Unions will be held in Birmingham on the 6,7 and 8th October, 1978.

PAST NFCU CONFERENCES

TIMETABLE

1. BIRMINGHAM Mar '70
2. BIRMINGHAM May '70
3. BIRMINGHAM July '70
4. BIRMINGHAM Sep '70
5. LONDON Nov '70
6. MANCHESTER Jan '71
7. YORK Mar '71
8. NEWCASTLE Jun '71
9. OXFORD Sep '71
10. BRISTOL Jan '72
11. DEPTFORD Apr '72
12. YORK Mar '72
13. BIRMINGHAM Nov '72
14. NEWCASTLE Jan '73
15. SWANSEA Apr '73
16. LONDON Jul '73
17. NOTTINGHAM Nov '73
18. LEEDS Jan '74
19. BIRMINGHAM May '74
20. BRISTOL Nov '74
21. MANCHESTER Nov '74
22. DEPTFORD Feb '75
23. SWANSEA Jun '75
24. SOUTH SHIELDS Sep '75
25. BIRMINGHAM Dec '75
26. STEPNEY Mar '76
27. NEWCASTLE Jul '76
28. KENSINGTON Sep '76
29. BRISTOL Jan '77
30. CAMBERWELL May '77
31. BRIGHTON Aug '77
32. MANCHESTER Nov '77
33. STEPNEY Mar '78
34. WOOLCOMBE Aug '78
35. BIRMINGHAM Oct '78

FRI 6TH OCT

Reception of out-of-town delegates at Advice Centre, 78, Westminster Road, Handsworth, B'ham 20.
(TEL: for that evening only is - 021 356 1095)

SAT 7TH OCT

Conference from 9.30am - 6.00pm at Newtown Community Centre, Newtown Rd, B'ham 19.
There is a Benefit dance at the same place starting at 8.00pm.

'RED ALERT'
'Midland Red Theatre Revue'
Disco with Lord Wax
Late Bar until 11.30pm.

SUN 8TH OCT

Conference continues from 9.30am until 4.00pm.

COSTS

£1 per delegate which includes entrance to the benefit.

ACCOMMODATION

Please write or phone in advance with estimates of numbers to the organisers Handsworth Claimants Union, 134, Villa Road, B19 1NN TEL: 021 554 2080.

LOCATION

Newtown Community Centre is in the Newtown Shopping Centre on the A34 to Walsall in the North of the City.
The Advice Centre in Westminster Rd is also just off the A34 and parallel to it near to Birchfield (Perry Barr).

THERE WILL BE A DOUBLE-DECKER BUS LEAVING FROM NORTH LONDON AT 3.30PM FRIDAY, 6TH OCTOBER AND RETURNING ABOUT 5.00PM SUNDAY AFTERNOON, 8TH OCT.
COST: £3 PER PERSON, CHILD -RET. FREE BEFORE 1ST OCT.

NEW RATES OF BENEFIT FROM MID NOVEMBER '78

The government is obliged to increase long-term benefits (like retirement pensions and invalidity pensions) in line with either prices or earnings whichever is the higher. However, it is only obliged to increase short-term benefits (like sickness and unemployment benefits) so that they keep in line with the rise in prices. The government has stated that by November wage inflation will be down to 11% and price inflation down to 7%. Thus long-term benefits are to be increased by 11½% and short-term benefits by 7%.

SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS	Short-term	Long-term
Couple	25.25	31.55
Single householder	15.55	19.90
others over 18	12.45	15.95
16 - 17	9.55	-
13 - 15	7.95	-
11 - 12	6.55	-
5 - 10	5.30	-
under 5	4.40	-
Non-householder rent addition	1.45	
Heating additions	.85	
	1.70	
	2.55	
Dietary additions	.95	
	2.25	

CONTRIBUTORY AND NON-CONTRIBUTORY BENEFITS

Standard rate of retirement, invalidity and widow's pensions and widowed mother's allowance.

Single person	19.50
Wife or other adult dependent	11.70

Standard rate of unemployment and sickness benefits.

Single person	15.75
Wife or adult dependent	9.75
Widow's allowance (1st 26wks)	27.30
Maternity Allowance	15.75

CHILD BENEFIT	Nov '78	April '79	
Two parent families	3.00	4.00	each child
Single parent families			
first child	5.00	6.00	"
Each other child	3.00	4.00	

Increases for children of long-term benefits and HCIP, Guardian allowance, child's special allowance.

6.35 taking into account child ben.

Increases for children of short-term benefits.

1.85 "

NOTE: NEW SS POLICY

The amount for arrears for fuel bills has gone up to 80p a week (until Nov, it stays at 50p for those already on direct payments), from 1st August. Also, if claimant has resources disregarded by the SS then a higher amount can be deducted.



CLAIMANTS UNION
AFFILIATION
TO TRADES COUNCILS

support
the unemployed
and other claimants

5 and 6th SEPT

It was agreed at the CU holiday at Woolacombe in August to organise a lobby of the TUC Conference at Brighton from the 4th to 7th Sept. A 15 seater mini-bus was hired from Community Transport and members of North London, Hackney and East London CUs went to Brighton for two days (5th and 6th). A special four page leaflet was printed which explained to Trade Union Delegates what a Claimants Union was and what were the issues which could unite trade unionists and claimants. A Trade Union issue of the Claimants Union Newspaper No 15 was specially printed to distribute at Brighton. Two loud-hailers and lots of other CU literature and badges were taken!

Discussions had taken place, before the conference, with other bodies who were intending to take part in the lobby - particularly the Right To Work Campaign who were organising a march from London to Brighton, the Campaign Against Youth Unemployment, and the Civil and Public Service Association (CPSA - the union to which SS clerks belong) who were organising a mass lobby on the 6th.

We used the Brighton Resource Centre as a base for our activities. It was also being used as the centre for the fringe events. We arrived in Brighton as the Right To Work marchers were entering the town! and went to a meeting where Child Poverty Action Group were to meet and discuss the problems of the poor with Trade Union delegates. We arrived $\frac{1}{2}$ hour late to the venue - an over elaborate, deep-pile carpeted first floor lounge of a pub to find nobody there except three cronies from CPAG! Apparently, the delegates had gone to a dinner-time booze up with Denis Healey! So we went and lobbied the delegates as they staggered back. Albert, a 75 year old member of North London CU vigorously lobbied TU leaders and managed to speak to Healey on the way into the Conference Hall!

We then went back to the Resource Centre where we met CAYU organisers. They appeared to have brought a coach-load of young unemployed people without really planning what to do with them once they got there. What is interesting from our point of view, is that they did not have a clue how to deal with the various SS and Dole hassles experienced by their members. We ran a work-shop on these topics in the late afternoon. There was a good meeting on SUS - the laws under which (mainly) black youths are harassed by police the same afternoon. It was mentioned that these youths had had difficulty in getting Dole money because they are often detained by police for several days.

**A LIVING INCOME - JOB OR NO JOB
USEFUL WORK - END WAGE SLAVERY**

Plea shooter

HOWEVER much delegates bleat about social and economic injustice from the rostrum, 11,000 of them at least are in employment. Reality, actual rather than rehearsed, begins at the crush barrier outside the conference centre. And sad it is to see the Young Unemployed, the Claimants' Union, and the rest heckling those best placed to help them.

But, beyond this fringe, real, unorganised deprivation begins. Or so I thought until I came face to face yesterday with an old lady who squinted through thick glasses and said "give me 10p, love. I haven't eaten for 12 days and I'm an orphan." Recognising a fellow storyteller, I pressed shekels into her hand.

6.9.78 Guardian

TUC CONFERENCE AT BRIGHTON CONTINUED

During Monday afternoon and evening we plastered Brighton and the area around the TUC Conference Hall with CU stickers -Stop Punishing the Unemployed, End the Cohabitation Rule, Fight Back with The Claimants Union! TUC Recognition of CU's Now. Chris of East London completely covered a road-sign outside the TUC only to be instructed by two police to rip them all off again! In the evening many of us went to a new 'Counteract' play called 'Party Games' about canvassing for the forth-coming (was then) General Election. This was followed by a discussion. The same evening some of took part in a picket outside a guest-house where two TUC delegates were staying which is the head-quarters of the Keep Sussex Pure Association - a racist/fascist organisation. Two Right To Work Marchers went up to the front door to voice our dissent and were greeted by two men with iron bars! Needless to say, the police harassed us and not the fascists. Later on there was a big Rock Against Racism gig at the Brighton Corporation Bus Depot Social Club!

On the Wednesday morning we had a choice of playing football at Preston Park or walking around Brighton. Tony of North London went around all the Alternative bookshops selling CU literature. At 12.00 noon there was a mass CPSA lobby - they were opposing the introduction of phase 4 pay norm of five percent and the introduction of fortnightly payments - and we went along to talk to them about the Claimants Union and lobby CPSA TUC delegates. This was quite successful as we managed to speak to some of them and sell them some newspapers. Much interest was shown in the Smash the Cohabitation Rule Campaign especially as sex discrimination in social security was on the TUC Conference agenda. The Campaign badges were very popular (see page). While we were outside the Conference Hall the RTWC's lorry drove up to off-load sandwiches and drink to their members. The police refused to allow them to do so (although, the day before they had allowed this) and the marchers sat down around the lorry. These were very roughly handled and the lorry was driven off by the police. Those that had been behind the lorry waiting for food and had sat down (it was part of a lay-by and not in the road) were charged by two policemen on horseback. A blind man and a black woman were injured. Many of us attempted to speak to TUC delegates as they were returning from lunch but most appeared to not be interested. Eventually a senior TUC rep promised to make a complaint. Later on that afternoon several hundred of us marched to Brighton main police station to make a complaint about this unprovoked attack by the police.

SHORTEST MARCH IN HISTORY !

To end the mass lobby on the Wednesday a march took place from outside the TUC Conference Hall to the first entrance onto the beach - a march which lasted for less than three minutes! The Claimants Union was sandwiched between the CPSA and the Right To Work marchers. On the beach there was some vociferous argument between rank and file CPSA members and CPSA executive members over the composite motion put to the TUC conference on the 5 percent pay norm as well as between them and CU members !

A bookstall and workshop was held at the Resource Centre during the rest of the afternoon. In the evening, before we left to return to London, we went to a hotel which had been booked for all the CPSA TUC delegates and met some of them. In particular, we had a long discussion with a branch secretary who told us what they had argued for during the conference.

WHO SPEAKS for the UNEMPLOYED ?

At the Brighton Conference of the T.U.C. you might have noticed a large number of well paid Union Officials salving their consciences and preparing their place in heaven by using the plight of the unemployed as a means of their own salvation. Yet we are the unemployed and we are not allowed to speak

Do you want all these people gaining sympathy on our backs?

I say NO ! By forming together into a strong union with a high membership, with area representatives, with elected and paid officials, with a constitution, etc , I feel that claimants could force the government into dealing with us and forming policies that we want.

It is now the situation that claimants willing and wanting to work could be permanently on the payroll of Her Majesty's Government. What rights have they in determining the level of their weekly handout - NOW! . Can you exist on £13.05 ?

What breed of Homo Sapiens is this country producing - a programmed saliva foaming teenager as the Pavlovian brown envelope falls on the morning mat. 'Remember sonny we are a highly civilized and cultural nation, you havnt done anything wrong, its just that we cant fit you in , so heres £13, so go away and cultivate your credentials.'

Do you feel Claimants Union has the energy, could, or wants to organize into a strong representative organization, with recognition by the TUC and Government?

Tim of North London CU.

REVIEW SEMINAR AT BRISTOL UNIVERSITY, 11th to 13th SEPT

There is to be an exclusive seminar on the Supplementary Benefits Review at Bristol this month - the charge only £70 per person ! Needless to say, the DHSS (who are paying for it) did not invite Claimants Unions along..... We wrote off to Bristol asking for free places for Claimants Union reps. We received a letter back stating that regrettably there were no spare places ! We thought that we should do something about this and hassled them further getting a good article by Peter Hillmore in the Guardian (see page). This apparently, upset the chairperson of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, Prof Donnison and Stan Orme's new concept of open government ! Consequently, we received a letter stating that there had been a cancellation and thus that the CU could have a seat - expenses being paid by the DHSS (including meals, accommodation, fares etc). However, we were still not satisfied - after all there was only going to be one claimant at this seminar. So we got onto the DHSS etc., and what do you think.... we got another place all expenses paid ! We only recently found out that the DHSS had invited only one rep from an approved list of thirty bodies. Two places out of thirty isn't bad ? We suspect that they are desperately trying to give status to the Review Panel's proposals?

Dear claimant

Bill Jordan

We regret that you have continued to press us with letters emphasising your exceptional circumstances. We had hoped that you would by now have understood that the whole purpose of our Review of 1978, and the subsequent legislation, was to reduce our discretionary responsibilities for people like yourself.

Your request for a single payment for clothing your children, and to assist with your electricity bill, cannot be met under our new rules. In future, families like yours will receive lump sums of £26 every six months to help with such needs. We have considered your other request for furniture, and decided not to meet it. A local charity runs a second-hand furniture store, and we feel you should turn to them for these items.

We should also inform you that you no longer have a right of appeal against this decision. We found that there were far too many appeals against refusals of exceptional needs payments. Even under our old rules, these payments amounted to only just over 1 per cent of all our expenditure, but we are determined to cut them back still further. We were embarrassed by the number of our expert decisions in these matters that were being overturned by lay tribunals. If there have to be appeals, we would prefer them to be against decisions about the scale rates. As these are fixed by parliament, claimants cannot possibly succeed in such appeals. Accordingly, we have made appeals against exceptional needs payments a privilege, granted by the chairman of the tribunal, and only where there is an important issue of principle at stake.

Some organisations have criticised this reduction in the right of appeal; but they were precisely those organisations which disrupted our whole appeals system, by pressing for each individual case to be considered on its merits. Under our old rules we would, of course, have had to take account of such factors as the special hardship you experienced because of the low rates of benefit we paid you during the first eight weeks of your claim, and one of these organisations might have used this to extort a payment from a tribunal. We think it only fair that we should be rid of this time-consuming source of harassment. After all, there is no right of appeal against refusals of payments under the Children and Young Persons Act, and none against refusals of school clothing. In many African and Eastern countries there is no right of appeal against anything.

Please do not assume that we are against all forms of discretion. What we are trying to reduce is our responsibility to make extra payments on account of exceptional needs. Our powers to make discretionary reductions in benefits will be retained.

On the 13th July the DHSS published a review of the Supplementary Benefits scheme called "Social Assistance" which has taken two years to produce.

On the face of it it might read as if it only proposes minor changes to the present supplementary benefits system-but, reading more deeply, we can pin-point some pretty nasty recommendations.

We have reproduced four fl ititious letters written by Bill Jordan (who has been in Newton Abbott CU) and published in the top journal for the poverty business -New Society- which we feel attempts to get over some of these nasty recommendations.

'Social Assistance' is available from DHSS Information Division, Leaflets Unit, Block 4, Government Buildings, Honeypot Lane, Stanmore, Middlesex, HA7 1AY. Also, its worth getting the background research papers which are available from DHSS, Room 536A, New Court, Carey St, London WC2 2LS (01 81 6111 ext 2555).

Whose benefit?

HERE IS a classic example of how a government department can practise both open and closed government simultaneously. The Department of Health recently published its Supplementary Benefits Review, with vast trumpeting about open government, that fashionable phrase.

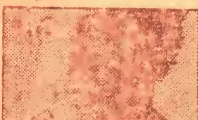
The publication was accompanied by no fewer than 40 background papers and a welter of explanatory documents and the department stressed it wanted as wide a consultation as possible on the review's proposals.

So far so good. And the DHSS was delighted when a Bristol University department decided to hold a seminar on the review and the team that prepared the review said it would come along, give explanations, answer questions, etc.

To make things even easier the DHSS helpfully provided Bristol with a list of people and worthy organisations it thought should be invited, including such worthies as the Child Poverty Action Group.

And to make things even easier still, the open department said that, as the fee for the seminar is £70 a head, it would help groups on its list

GUARDIAN DIARY



Peter Hillmore

with the fee by providing subsidies.

Which is where the closed government comes in. Groups which are not part of the DHSS's approved travelling circus are fairing very badly. Most prominent is the Claimants Union, long a thorn in the department's side and probably the group with the most knowledge and criticism to voice.

The union has been told that it will have to go on a waiting list for a place at the over-subscribed seminar as it is not on the DHSS list, and that if it did manage to come, because of last minute cancellations, it would have to find its own money, even though it is considerably poorer than some of the subsidised participants.

'THE REVIEW'

Bill Jordan

Dear claimant

I am now writing to you to inform you of your rates of benefit under the Social Assistance Act, 1979. As you are under pension age, you automatically come under the new short-term benefits scheme, introduced according to the supplementary benefit Review of July 1978.

For the next eight weeks, you and your family will receive £41.05 per week. This may seem an unduly small sum, especially as your rent in your temporary accommodation is £22, and you have four children. However, you must bear in mind the philosophy behind our new scheme. Our researches showed that two fifths of all claimants under pension age withdrew their claims after eight weeks or less. It seemed to us an extravagant use of time to go to the trouble of assessing and meeting their needs in full if they were just going to disappear like that.

Admittedly, most of them claimed again within the next eight weeks, but that just proves what unstable, impoverished, needy people they were. Our whole administrative system is terribly complicated, with literally dozens of staff working on any one claim. It is wasteful of our staff's time if claimants' circumstances keep changing, especially if they are in urgent need.

You must appreciate that it is an essential feature of the new scheme that the rates of benefit are absolutely standard, and the same for every claimant, whatever his circumstances. This seems only fair, even though it is not the way we treat long-term claimants. You may consider that £8.40 is rather a low amount to include as rent, as your particular rent is somewhat higher than this. But it would entirely destroy the essential simplicity of the scheme if we started to make adjustments for individual circumstances. In your own case, we can only advise that you and your family make some kind of decision whether to eat or pay the rent.

At the end of eight weeks, if you are still alive, and still wish to claim, you will be re-assessed, and transferred to a completely different scale of benefits. You may wonder what is simpler about a scheme which involves two assessments, on different scales.

But I can assure you that, even though the number of questions we have to ask claimants is just as many in each assessment, and they all have to be asked twice, the new rules for short-term claims are far easier for our staff to understand. We are trying to relieve them of the immediate strain of having to deal with very poor people.

If you find these new rules confusing and unfair, do not hesitate to write again to us, but you can be assured that there is nothing you can do about them.

Bill Jordan

Dear claimant

We have received your claim of 7 October 1979. We are writing to explain to you the provisions of the Social Assistance Act (1979) which came into force last week—implementing the Supplementary Benefits Review of July 1978—and which will apply to your case.

You tell us that you are a married man with four young children; that you are in temporary accommodation at a rent of £22 per week; that you have no savings, and that one of your children suffers from diabetes. All this is very regrettable. It is obvious that you are very poor and needy, and not at all the sort of person we are looking for as a claimant.

For the past twelve years we in the SBC have been trying to establish the respectability of our system of benefits, so that (while retaining the means test, cohabitation rule and so on) we can take our place at the very centre of British income maintenance provision. However, we cannot wholly escape from our function as a "last resort" for the destitute, and this tends to tarnish our image, and lay us open to attack from right-wing MPs and the press.

Our main strategy over the past twelve years has been based on wider criteria of eligibility. This has attracted an altogether better class of claimant. The sort of person we are looking for is a retired pensioner, without dependent children, with some savings behind him—preferably about £1,000—and possibly a small private income. He should lead a generally settled existence, so that his needs do not change from year to year. Fortunately, we have been able to attract a large number of such claimants; perhaps half our beneficiaries come somewhere near this description. We feel justified in basing the administration of our whole scheme on the needs of this obviously deserving group, and making it more acceptable to them.

At the same time, we have continued to be besieged by very poor and needy people like yourself, who press their claims upon us by visiting the office and writing urgent letters about their special circumstances. You must appreciate that if we met the needs of people like you in full, or even approximately, our whole system would fall into disrepute.

The idea of giving a flexible service according to needs which change so rapidly as those of families such as yours is repugnant to the ideal we have of standard-rate benefits for all, and offensive to the opinions of the great majority of well-to-do citizens. Accordingly, we have introduced a number of restrictions on what will be available to you in the short-term, and thereafter.

As you do not become eligible for any money for another seven days, I shall write again with details of your assessment next week.

Bill Jordan

Dear claimant

We have received your letter of 1 November 1979. You say that you, your wife and four children are having great difficulty managing on the £41.05 per week we are giving you, because, amongst other things, of your £22 rent. I can only reiterate that this is your statutory entitlement to short-term benefit under the rules recently approved by parliament.

You add that you are desperately in need of help towards furnishing your flat because you have only three beds for the six of you, and no table or chairs. You mention that the cooker, which was always faulty, has now broken down completely. These are all matters which could only be dealt with under provision for exceptional needs. However, no such provision is possible in your case, because the new regulations for short-term benefits expressly exclude the exercise of any such discretionary powers for the first eight weeks of a claim. To give any such assistance, merely on the grounds of exceptional circumstances or needs, would largely undermine both the simplicity and the fairness of the new scheme.

It is true that there will always be claimants such as yourself who lack the essentials for a viable day-to-day existence, and who have no means whatsoever of providing them for themselves. However, to most right-minded members of the public, a state of such acute neediness is indicative of lack of moral fibre, and it would only discredit our whole system of benefits if we relieved it.

The National Assistance Board and the SBC did for many years meet such needs, but this proved unpopular with staff and with all but the few hundreds of thousands of very poor families who survived initially because of it. The new rules will also save the taxpayers £3 million.

You further mention that you have an unexpected opportunity of a job as a carpenter if you can get yourself clean and working clothes. You will appreciate that the same rules apply to these items as to the others you requested. We have found that those who benefited from such assistance in the early weeks of their claims tended to be ex-prisoners, discharged mental hospital patients, and other under-serving minority groups.

If the problems you mention continue to trouble you, you might consider seeing a social worker from the local authority social services department. She will probably not be able to help financially, but she will unquestionably be able to give you advice on how to budget your money better. Alternatively, there are a number of charities still in existence which may assist you. A list of their names and religious denominations is attached.

SEX DISCRIMINATION AND SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS

The recently published Supplementary Benefits Review proposes eradicating sexual discrimination through a NOMINATED BREAD-WINNER policy. This is how the scheme will work.

1. Where two people of the opposite sex live together one must be identified as the 'breadwinner' and the other as that person's 'dependent'.
2. The man will continue to be regarded as the breadwinner, unless the woman successfully challenges his status and displaces him.
3. In order to compete for breadwinner status the woman must have been in full-time employment for a specified period prior to the claim. The Commission state that this will automatically 3/4 of women ineligible for breadwinner status.
4. A woman who is able to prove that she has been in full-time employment for the specified period then has to get the man's consent to the reversal of status.
5. If the man objects to the woman being regarded as the breadwinner or refuses to consent to his displacement to dependent status then one of the 400 Sex Role Investigators will decide as to which individual becomes the nominated breadwinner.
6. If either the man or the woman objects to the officer's decision then he or she can appeal to the local Supplementary Benefits Appeal Tribunal on such grounds as the level of wages obtained during the specified period in full-time employment.

We women in the Claimants Union reject this 'Nominated Breadwinner' scheme on the grounds that it will not bring about equal treatment for men and women claiming supplementary benefits. We wish to state that the only way equal treatment can be achieved is by supplementary benefit claimants being treated individually. The 1975 Pensions Act gives women equal status with men when claiming insurance benefits. Women are no longer regarded as dependents; women pay the same contributions and receive the same amount of benefit. If women can be treated individually by the insurance scheme then we see no reason why they cannot be treated as individuals claiming in their own right by the supplementary benefits scheme. Of course, this will cost money. But, then this is the price to be paid for 'equal treatment'.

THIS ARTICLE WAS ISSUED BY THE CLAIMANTS UNIONS IN LONDON AS A PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING THE PUBLICATION OF "SOCIAL ASSISTANCE" A REVIEW OF THE SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFITS SCHEME.....

IF ANYONE WANTS TO COMMENT ON THIS PRESS RELEASE OR THE FULL REPORT OR FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE REVIEW STUDY GET IN TOUCH WITH EITHER JULIA OF EAST LONDON CU OR TONY OF NORTH LONDON.

some comments on

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE: a review of the supplementary benefits scheme in Great Britain.

published by the DHSS, July 1978

1. NO EXTRA MONEY

The review takes it as given that no extra money will be granted to increase staff and benefit levels on grounds that it would be 'unrealistic' for the DHSS to ignore the existing 'economic constraint' and pressure to reduce civil service staff members'.

2. 'ROUGH JUSTICE'

Resources would be concentrated on the more 'needy' categories of claimants (.e.g., old-age pensioners, families with children, disabled, etc.) This would be done at the expense of those claimants who supposedly have more of a 'margin in handling their financial affairs', e.g., unemployed and strikers. The Review poses the 'real question' (for the state!): 'How much loss, and for how many, would be acceptable'. The Review calls this 'rough justice'; we call it a 'rough deal'.

3. INCREASED HARRASSMENT

The Review proposes a simplified benefit scheme and uses this as a way of concentrating their attention on individual claimants who are seen to have 'continued difficulties' and therefore need 'special help'. In practice this would mean increased harrassment of the unemployed, and compulsory budgeting for those not able to subsist on the meagre benefits under the scheme.

4. RESTRICTING APPEALS

The Review recommends that present policy guidelines used by the SB Commission (the secret 'A Code') be replaced by simpler regulations which are legally binding. The intent is to restrict the right of appeal to important points of principle, no longer allowing claimants to use appeals tribunals as a second chance to win extra money.

5. REDUCED DISCRETION

Discretionary payments would become less readily forthcoming. Simplification of the SB scheme, designed to reduce administrative costs, would be to the advantage of the civil service administrators and not to claimants. The Commission's considerable extension of discretionary powers over recent years has resulted from claimants forcing local offices to acknowledge the totally inadequate levels of benefit. For example, the increased number of ENP's in recent years is the result of pressure from claimants forcing local offices to supplement inadequate levels of benefit. In order to cheapen administration, the Review now proposes limiting the availability of discretionary payments to 'really exceptional (!) circumstances', without, of course, increasing the benefit levels for all claimants. This would help the SB scheme to resist claimants' demands that their needs be met.

6. SEX DISCRIMINATION

The vicious Cohabitation Rule would remain.

The Review also proposes an extra 400 staff to act as 'sex role' investigators. In families where the woman claims she is not the dependent, the investigators would determine which partner is the breadwinner and which is the financially dependent in a husband/wife relationship. However, according to the Review, $\frac{3}{4}$ of all married women have not held jobs regularly enough to qualify as breadwinner, so that only $\frac{1}{4}$ of them would be at all eligible for such status, anyway.

The 'sex role' investigation could be seen in principle as a step towards sexual equality, but in practice discrimination would still remain. In fact, by stamping labels on people, such an investigation would tend to formalise the financially dependent role that most women are already stuck with.

7. TWO-TIER SYSTEM

The proposed two-tier system of benefits would mean two classes of claimants. It would be less difficult than before to make a short-term claim, but this would be at a fixed amount of money, lower than the benefits that claimants now manage to get. After 6-13 weeks, a detailed interview would take place, where a claimant would probably have to justify their continued receipt of benefit.*

* See Bill Jordan's fictitious letters elsewhere in the Bulletin.

We hope that the October conference will discuss the above points and the question of whether the NFCU should publish a comprehensive counter-review.

-NORTH LONDON CLAIMANTS UNION-

HACKNEY CLAIMANTS UNION

Hackney Claimants Union first saw the light of day about three weeks ago when four extremely disgruntled, not to say broke, claimants decided that the DHSS within the borough were getting away with far too much. It was decided to form a Claimants Union in Hackney. Standing, leafletting outside the DHSS, two other claimants approached us for help with their claim. They had come from Cornwall to look for work, obtained it, but had no money. The DHSS had refused them both emergency payments and had given one an emergency payment, but he had used it in support-
-ing the other. Two members decided to go and support and represent them in their claim. It was the first time we had gone in as a Claimants Union. On speaking to the counter-clerk we were immediately challenged. They threatened to close-down the office for the rest of the day, and announced over the loudspeaker system that this would happen if the "unauthorised persons" did not leave immediately. It was pointed out that the CPSA recognised the CU, and that most DHSS offices recognised the CU and acknowledged the right to representation as well. They then backed down and agreed to representation on the scale of one representative to one claimant. This was accepted and the claim was won.

Jay of Hackney CU.

CLAIMING IN NORTHERN IRELAND

We have received a letter from Norman and Padraigin from Belfast about the Payments of Debt (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order, 1978 which was pushed through Parliament in June. They also enclosed a press cutting about a single parent who lived in Belfast and on supplementary benefit who hanged herself because of large deductions from her benefit for rent arrears implemented under the Payments of Debt Act. They write :- "Is this inhuman, degrading treatment or torture?"

A CRITIQUE OF THE PAYMENT FOR DEBT ACT

"In 1971 the introduction of internment sparked off a civil disobedience campaign which had as its main tactic the refusal by large sections of the Catholic community to pay rent, rates, gas and electricity charges and other public debts" (Joe O'Hara. *Gestion* Oct '76)

The response of the Northern Ireland government was fast and within two months Stormont had passed the Payments for Debt Act (Emergency Provisions) NI 1971. (Known as the PDA). This remains in force. On April 5th 1976 the PDA was extended to anyone owing more than £20 in rent or rates. By the new Criminal Injuries Order NI 1977 public debts can be taken out of any criminal injury award. The government has now decided to extend it further ie to anyone in gas or electricity debt. This will happen when the Draft Payments for Debt (Amendment) NI Order, '78 is passed on Tuesday June 20th. The decision to extend the PDA to gas and electricity has been done under the 1971 Act. MP's are being asked to allow a collection charge to be imposed when

collecting gas, electricity arrears ie to pay for more workers in the Benefit Allocation Branch (see Below). We ask you to oppose this order. If it fails, the PDA will almost certainly not be extended.

The continued operation and extensions of the PDA raise fundamental questions such as the extent of poverty in N. Ireland; the attitude of the government to the concept of the Welfare State; the system of financing housing and other services; and the rule of law.

THE PDA'S OPERATION - THE THEORY

Sections 1 & 2 of the 1971 Act authorise deductions at source from a person's social security benefit if that person owes more than £20 in rent or rates. Administrative guidelines have been worked out and a 50p collection charge is also allowed. It should be made clear that there is no statutory control over the size of the deduction. The guidelines are as follows (Nov 77):-
Householder - £1.75, Spouse - £1.05, each child - £0.85. Up to £6 per week towards arrears may be deducted if the defaulter is unemployed. Where earnings Related Supplement is being paid, the arrears contribution maximum may be increased to £7 a week. If the head of household is employed or self-employed the full arrears contribution of £7 per week will be allocated. The 50p collection charge and weekly rent are also withheld. In other words a man and wife on Supplementary Benefit with two children aged 2 and 5, owing more than £20 in rent can have £6 per week arrears + present rent (say £7 per week) + 50p withheld until the debt is paid ie £13.50 per week. This will leave them with £26.60 to live on for the week. Can you imagine what will be left if gas and electricity debts are also taken?

A specially created department at Stormont, the Benefits Allocation Branch (B.A.B.) organises the re-direction of benefits at source.

A person owing more than £20 can make an arrangement with the Housing Executive to pay off a debt. If an arrangement is made the 50p collection charge is not made. Until February, '77 any person subject to the PDA was not allowed to apply for an Exceptional Needs Payment. Now it is in the absolute discretion of the Supplementary Benefits Commission. Some social workers used Section 164 of the Children and Young Persons Act NI 1968 to get around this ie to make payments to families rather than take children into care. This practice was reduced when the amounts of payments were halved - 'part of the cuts' and then finally social workers were informed to stop doing it.

Under Section 3 of the 1971 Act deductions can be made from the wages of persons who owe more than £20 in rent or rates, again since April 5th 1976. The PDA here makes use of the Enforcement of Judgements Office (the EJO) without the need for a prior court order. The EJO was established in 1969 as the sole agency for the enforcement of debts in NI. Its procedures require private hearings in order to assess the debtors financial position thus giving him or her the 'opportunity' to argue for or against any given method of recovering the debt. Attachment of Earnings cannot be ordered unless the debtor has first failed to comply with an order requiring the payment of debt by installments. However, when application is made to the EJO under the PDA this requirement is waived.

1. SUMMARY

The 1971 Rent and Rates strike is over yet the PDA remains and has even be extended. There are many reports of the maximum deductions being exceeded and others being made without regard for individual circumstances. Once subject to the PDA this lasts lasts for five weeks even though one immediately enters into a voluntary agreement. Gas is twice as dear in NI as in Britain. Electricity is 20% more expensive; unemployment is over 12% : in many working class areas it is over 30%. Wages are lower than in Britain; food dearer; transport is more costly; inflation higher. In February 1977 Lord Melchett set up an informal Advisory Review Tribunal to consider hardship. Nobody has heard of its existence. Once subject to the PDA you do not qualify for a rent rebate.

FINALLY, we ask you to consider this. Article 3 of the European Convention on Human Rights states;-

"No one shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment"

To us, the PDA comes within this article. We therefore ask you to oppose this Order and scrap the Act.

SMASH THE COHABITATION RULE CAMPAIGN

It aims to get rid of the Cohabitation Rule once and for all and calls for a guaranteed minimum income for all women, irrespective of their sexual relationships.

Andrea and Monika of North London CU are co-ordinating the campaign and welcome contributions and enquiries, especially if people are interested in action in their local area.

We hold planning meetings every fortnight (the next will be on September 20th) and have produced a badge (drawing on front page -the colours are yellow, red and black lettering). There is a petition calling upon Stan Orme (the present Minister for Social Security) to abolish this vicious rule. WE are also designing stickers and posters and welcome suggestions.

We hope the campaign will become a national one, with a co-ordinated week of action. Hopefully there will be time at Brum to discuss the campaign, but if you want information now (leaflets, petitions etc.,) or some badges ; contact Andrea and Monika, 5, Mackenzie Road, London, N7 8QZ. Tel; 01 607 8117.

SMASH THE COHABITATION RULE CAMPAIGN SMASH THE COHABITATION RULE CAMPAIGN SMASH THE COHABITATION RULE CAMPAIGN SMASH THE COHABITATION RULE CAMPAIGN SMASH THE COHABITATION RULE CAMPAIGN SMASH THE COHABITATION RULE CAMPAIGN SMASH THE COHABITATION RULE CAMPAIGN SMASH THE COHABITATION RULE CAMPAIGN SMASH THE COHABITATION RULE CAMPAIGN SMASH THE COHABITATION RULE CAMPAIGN

CLAIMANTS UNIONS and the CPSA:
the Anti-Nazi League episode

At the Medina Road Employment Exchange, Finsbury Park, 15 workers wore ANL badges on the morning of Monday 22 May, and so forced the management to back down on its earlier threat to suspend anyone wearing the badge. The ANL mounted a 30-strong demonstration outside the office, with the North London Claimants Union encouraging claimants to express support to the clerks when signing on.

The management's first response that morning was to try to substitute desk workers for any counter clerk who wore the badge, so that there would be no clerk present at the counter wearing one. That tactic seemed to follow from the management's earlier argument that such a 'political' badge might offend some claimants. (How touching.)

Unfortunately for the management, their tactic backfired because the substituted workers complained at being assigned to a job that they weren't normally responsible for doing. In the end, management gave in, probably regretting that they'd ever made the threat in the first place. Of course, the threat had originally been made not out of any concern for claimants but from a complaint made by a National Front member working at the office.

The victory was reported in the local and socialist press*, but with scant mention of claimants, except that some had asked the counter clerks, 'Where can we get the badge, mate?' No one reported the involvement of the Claimants Union, and the Militant's photographer actually went out of his way to exclude the CU banner from his photo of the demo.

Apparently such political support from claimants did not fit in with claimants' popular image as an unthinking mass. Some claimants who did express support over the counter reported to us afterwards that their clerk had pretended not to understand what they were talking about. It seems that such a direct form of support--political conversationss over the counter--threatened the clerks' role as impersonal functionaries standing aloof from supposedly 'inarticulate' unemployed people.

In the entire episode, the only approach made to us by the CPSA was when a local CPSA official telephoned us afterwards to thank us for our support. Neither the ANL nor the CPSA had bothered to invite us to the demo in advance. In fact, we learned of it just the day before at the Islington Gutter Press conference. There Mike Hobart, the Organizing Secretary of the North London ANL, publicly announced the demo and asked that everyone (including the CU) turn up the next morning--but without actually approaching us or even knowing that we were present!

The Medina Road episode over ANL badges was the second such dispute that we'd known about. The question of supporting trade unionists over ANL badges first arose the month before at the Arcola Street DHSS office. In that dispute in April, the CPSA had asked us to send a letter supporting them to the management--as if by our mere existence we could purport to 'represent' all claimants! The CPSA was trying to treat us in much the same way that the Medina Road management did in May--as pawns in their struggle, with no space for us to play any active role in our own right, in our own interests.

CPSA officials have been willing to meet with us, but usually only for us to support them. For example, last year workers at DHSS offices in North London engaged in a work-to-rule. We learned of the action only through complaints from claimants suffering hardship as a result of that industrial action. We initiated a meeting with the local CPSA reps, who explained the reasons for the action to us and agreed to keep us informed. But he hedged when we questioned the political role of the staff and when we asked the union to explain their actions directly to claimants at each office. When all the London CPSA branches struck for one day in November 1977, it was entirely up to us to explain the strike to claimants and to win their support for the strike.

Even when CPSA officials have been friendly to the CU, they still draw the line at stepping down from their 'trade union' role to treat claimants as political allies. So it is important that these CU contacts with CPSA officials never be taken as a substitute for direct political links between the mass of claimants and staff at the workplace, where we can challenge the condescending way that claimants are usually treated. Our action over the ANL badges at Medina Road was hopefully a step towards mobilizing support for staff on our terms, not theirs.

--Les

N.London CU

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS at Medina Road:
the fight against fortnightly payments.

A small step towards better relations between CPSA members and claimants occurred around the 1-hour work stoppage at Medina Road on Thursday 13 July of this year. This protest against the introduction of fortnightly payments around the country--with a united demo of the CPSA and NLCU at Medina Road--is shown on the cover of the current issue of Claimants Unite newspaper, no.15.

There had long been rank-and-file pressure within the CPSA for the union to take strike action against the DHSS's proposed pilot scheme to introduce fortnightly payments (and signing on) at selected offices around the country, including some in London. The CPSA national executive went part of the way by authorizing action (with strike pay) in certain affected offices outside London. But it later withdrew even that concession because of reluctance by the 'soggies' within the Broad Left coalition that had ousted the corrupt and reactionary regime of Kate Loskinka in the previous spring election. (So much for Broad Left 'unity'.) The executive also denied authorization to offices in London where branches wanted to strike for one week. In the end, some London offices 'struck' only by invoking their contractual right to call a 55-minute 'union meeting'--with banners on the pavement outside their office!

Medina Road, though not one of the affected offices in the pilot scheme, took the lead in that action, and invited the CU to take part. Unfortunately their timing conflicted with our weekly meeting on Thursdays at 1pm, but we decided to make their action our priority for that day. The NLCU handed out leaflets and spoke to the quickly growing queue of claimants to explain our reasons for sharing the CPSA's opposition to the pilot scheme. And we probably set a precedent by successfully cajoling a reluctant member of the Holloway area executive committee (John Kahn) into explaining the union's reasons to the angry claimants; he survived to tell the tale.

THE RIGHT TO WORK vs. THE FIGHT TO LIVE

We have often been asked whether the Claimants Unions support the Right To Work Campaign (RTWC) and how our approach differs from theirs. Actually there is very little similarity at all, because we differ in our purpose as well as in our methods. We in the CU's are trying to organise wageless people to fight collectively for their own daily subsistence. While the RTWC is trying to organise unemployed workers to support the trade unions, especially by trying to work with them in fighting against the loss of jobs (though few unions seem to take the Campaign seriously or even welcome the Campaign's active support for their struggles.)

The RTWC does include demands for the unemployed, such as an increase in weekly payments 'for all unemployed workers, as an immediate step towards full wages for the unemployed'. But the RTWC has no way to force the DHSS to force the DHSS into granting such increases (nor even to grant existing entitlements!) Neither has it any practical way of opposing the everyday humiliations that the wageless suffer at the hands of the DHSS when claiming their entitlements.

The RTWC has tried to pressure the DHSS only as part of their publicity for their marches--without regard for how to win or for how to follow up the conflict in the months to come. In fact, the RTWC largely ignores claimants as claimants until a couple weeks before such events.

Unfortunately, the RTWC projects a 1930's-vintage depressed image of the unemployed: the downtrodden factory worker slouching on a street corner because he is out of work. This sort of image actually strengthens the way that capitalist society divides the employed and unemployed according to their sense of personal worth. (Similarly, Socialist Worker's anti-royalty poster, 'Spot the Scrounger', protests against the unjustly different incomes of two equally 'idle' people--the 'unemployed' Elizabeth Queen and the 'unemployable' Queen Elizabeth--a judgement that rests upon the bourgeois work ethic rather than criticizing it.) By suggesting that one's self-esteem depends upon having a job or being willing to take a job, the RTWC's images tell us that the main fight must be for all of us to get jobs.

Those images are no accident, for the RTWC's diversionary strategy is to treat the wageless section of the working class as displaced workers. It has usually referred to claimants as 'unemployed workers'--who are actually only a minority of all claimants--and has ignored the rest as unimportant to the class struggle. Lately it has begun to recognize this problem and may be calling us 'claimants' instead--or even cultivating a punk rocker image--but the RTWC's political role won't be changed by merely changing a label.

The RTWC tries to organise claimants around their individual 'right' to a job. Such a demand obscures the menial nature of the jobs most likely to be on offer. More important, it obscures the pressures that the DHSS exerts on claimants as isolated individuals to take such jobs. Is that way of getting a job a victory for 'the right to work'? And many claimants are unable to take a job because they must 'work' in the home or are sick or disabled. Of what use to them is 'the right to work'?

The RTWC's name and demands may at first sight seem worthy of support, but they cannot actually express any common interest of claimants as a whole or relate to their situation of being 'unemployed'. The RTWC treats claimants as a mass of would-be workers to be organized for ends which are sometimes irrelevant to their everyday situation or even against their life-aspirations. Claimants come under the RTWC's full-time paid organizers, who then try to 'represent' them in a merely symbolic alliance with trade union officials and stewards who sponsor the RTW Marches. In practice, demanding 'the right to work' means organizing the unemployed as picket fodder for the struggles of employed workers and making pleas to the trade unions to win jobs for the unemployed.

Now, the RTWC's stated aim is to unite the employed and unemployed, especially in order to avoid repeating the isolation of the 1930's Unemployed Workers' Movement from the rest of the trade union movement. However, the Campaign neglects the hard reality that, as soon as workers become unemployed, the source of their daily subsistence shifts and with it the terms of their daily struggle--from fighting an employer who pays out wages, to fighting the DHSS which pays out legal entitlements (though with discretionary powers.) Formal demands such as 'full wages for the unemployed' can not overcome that difference in the daily realities; nor can it provide any meaningful basis for unity between the employed and unemployed.

Indeed, to describe legal entitlements as 'wages' is to mystify both of them. If there is any similarity between the two, it is less in the payment of money than in the control exercised by the paymaster. When selling their labour power (capacity to work), workers are always in conflict with their foreman or boss over how long and hard they must work. Similarly, when claiming their entitlements, claimants are often in conflict with DHSS clerks over having to justify leaving their jobs or not having a job.

A truly meaningful connection between the employed and unemployed would be practical opposition to the DHSS's anti-striker rule and industrial misconduct rule, which help employers keep their employees working hard for low wages. However--consistent with their mentality of individual rights--the SWP has not gone beyond telling strikers about their legal entitlements, much in the manner of welfare or legal rights advice agencies. For example, Rank&File dealt with inquiries about the DHSS from striking firemen last winter by referring them as individuals to advice agencies or to the Claimants Union itself. Neither the RTWC nor R&F nor the SWP had any way of extending the strikers' collective power from the workplace to the DHSS office, so as to build links between the strikers and the unemployed and to help provide a much-needed subsistence to the strikers at the state's expense. (Of course in some areas firemen did successfully demand SB payments by going to the DHSS offices in groups, but there was no conscious political strategy for generalizing those isolated successes.)

The RTWC can neither speak to the everyday struggles of claimants nor oppose the greater control that bosses can exert over their labour force through the DHSS. What the RTWC does do is to cast claimants in the respectable mould of 'unemployed workers' who want simply to get a job. Even many of its own supporters have begun to realize that their 'right to work' slogan becomes worse than useless when the National Association For Freedom takes it up as well in order to defend the bosses' right to exploit workers!

The RTWC demands income mainly by way of demanding jobs, in effect tying income to jobs--as if it is claimants' willingness to take a job that makes them 'deserving' of an income. Even though the RTWC calls for increased benefits for the unemployed, its form of organization and slogans give it no way to fight for a decent income for all--job or no job, willing or unwilling to become a wage slave.

That is why we in the CU's organize wageless people as claimants for the 'fight to live', and against all forms of 'deservingness'. Our demand for a Guaranteed Minimum Income is not just an abstract slogan to be lobbied for at the TUC or Parliament. Our GMI demand is also a guiding principle for uniting all claimants in their daily struggles against the state.

--Les
N. London CU

Postscript--

This article was largely written before the CUs intervention at the Brighton TUC Conference, where certain limitations in the RTWC's approach came out more clearly, especially the illusory character of its trade union 'alliance'; see the narrative description of those events elsewhere in this Bulletin. Also, this article has been criticized by an SWP'er for supposedly opposing any form of alliance between the CUs and trade unionists. Such a criticism assumes that the RTWC's sort of 'alliance' is the only sort possible. For a sense of more meaningful alliance, see the narrative about the events at the Medina Road Employment Exchange.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ADDRESS LIST

INTERNATIONAL : We now have a listing for the Confederation Nationale des Associations Populaires Familiales believed to be the French counterpart of the NFCU :-

INSERT CNAFF,
28, Boulevard de Sebastopol,
75,004, PARIS. TEL: (PARIS) 272 9626
272 5550

USA (New York City Unemployed & Welfare Council) Delete
address and telephone number and replace by:-

192, Broadway,
New York, 10038,
publication is the N.Y.
'The Struggle' U.S.A. TEL: 010 1(212) 732 2440

LONDON (Holloway); Delete entry and replace by
North London CU,
5, Mackenzie Road, THURS 1.00PM
London N7 8QZ TEL: 01 607 8117

@
LONDON (Deptford); Insert
Deptford CU, Community Centre,
Deptford Housing Cooperative,
Idonia Street, THURS 1.30PM
Deptford, London S.E.8.

LONDON (Hackney); Insert
Hackney CU,
34, Dalston Lane,
London E8 WED 1.00PM

LONDON (Balham); Insert
Balham CU, Balham Family Centre,
91, Bedford Hill,
TEL. 673 4350 London SW12 THURS 2.00PM

LONDON (Brixton);
meetings
comms
Brixton CU,
2, Lumley House
8, Heywood House
TEL: 674 6402 Tulse Hill Estate, SW2. MON 2.00PM

LONDON (Clapham); Insert
Clapham CU, St Anne's Hall,
Venn Street,
TEL: 720 8731 LONDON SW4 WED 2.00PM

ESSEX (Chelmsford); Insert
Chelmsford Central,
18, Maltese Road,
Chelmsford.

ESSEX (Harwich); Delete entry and replace by
Harwich CU,
1, Macdonough Cottages,
TEL: 02555 3043 Harwich THURS 7.00PM

ESSEX (Southend); Insert
Southend CU,
195, Bournemouth Park Road,
Southend TUES 8.00PM

ESSEX (Shoeburyness) Betty Devics, 55, Cunningham Close,
Shoeburyness. TEL: 03708 4657.

ESSEX (Brentford & Southend) Delete entry and replace by
Brentwood CU,
14, Mayflower House,
TEL: The Drive,
0277 225379 Great Warley, Essex MON 8.00PM

ADDRESS LIST CONTINUED

SURREY(Farnham) Mike Alleyn,18,Weydon Hill Road,Farnham,Surrey.
 CHESHIRE(Chester)Chester CU:Probation Office,4,Stone Place,
 Hoole,Chester CH2 3NJ. Bill Mordue TEL: 0244 312757.
 ISLE-OF-WIGHT(Cowes)C.R.Edmonds,59,Pelican Road,Cowes(Disabled)
 ISLE-OF-WIGHT(Ventnor) A.Gage & G.Boylan,12, South Street,Ventnor.
 CORNWALL(Penzance) Add to existing entry; WEDS 2.00PM TEL:0736
 61388

NORTHANTS(Daventry) Delete entry for Daventry.
 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE(Kirkby-in-Ashfield) Insert; Mick Cropper,32,
 Wesley Street,Annesley-Woodhouse,Kirkby-in-Ashfield,Notts.
 NOTTINGHAM: Insert Nottingham CU,
 St Mary's House,
 Raleigh Street,
 Nottingham. MONS 1.30PM (every 2wks)
 Comms to; D.Bailey,9,Oliver Terraces,Raleigh Street.

WARWICKSHIRE(Leamington) Delete THE COMM'S ADDRESS AND REPLACE BY
 c/o 42,Bath Street,Leamington Spa,Warwicks.
 LEICESTER: Delete entry and replace by
 Leicester CU,
 58,Earl Howe Street,
 Leicester LE20 ODR. TUES 8.00PM
 TEL: 0533 544679
 Comm's to;J.Johnson,32,Melbourne Road,Leicester.Also,Louise
 Grande,13,Ardern Terrace,Braunstone,Leicester.

DERBY: Insert Derby CU,
 Peartree Road,Community Centre,
 Peartree Road, FRI 1.30PM
 TEL: 0332 32913
 (meetings only) Derby.
 Comm's to ; Jim Berrington,157,Cowesley Road,Chaddesden,Derby.

BRADFORD :Insert; Bradford CU,
 West Yorks. Fourth Idea,
 14, Southgate,
 Bradford 1. MON-FRI 2-6.00PM
 TEL: 0274 305927

SWANSEA: Delete entry and replace by
 Co-ordinating union Swansea CU,
 St Philips Community Centre,
 Baghurst Street,
 (City Centre) MEETS 1st Tues in the
 TEL: 0792 41027 (during meetings only) month 2.00PM

AND BON-Y-MAEN Community Centre,
 Cefn Road,
 Bon-y-Maen,
 Swansea,
 West Glamorgan Meets;All other Tues
 Comm's to; 79,Brokesby Rd,Bon-y-Maen. 2.00PM

LINCOLNSHIRE(Spalding) Insert L.Matthews,The Bungalow,Lutton
 Bank,Spalding.Lincs.

SCOTLAND(Glasgow) Delete entry for Glasgow CU and replace by
 Glasgow Central CU,
 c/o Information Library,
 80,Yorkhill Street,
 Glasgow G3 8SR (SHE IS ESSENTIAL)
 NEW COORDINATING UNION FOR SCOTLAND IS NOW-
 Castlemilk CU,
 15,Dougrie Terrace,
 Glasgow
 TEL: 041 634 0819